

Claims

1. A package for storing goods in a preservative state in which the temperature may not pass a certain limit value, comprising, on one hand, a bar-code (2) of the type that between two outer, light-absorbing code bars (4), includes a plurality of intermediate and likewise light-absorbing code bars or marks (4) mutually spaced-apart by neutral, light-reflecting fields (5), outer, neutral fields (5) being found also outside the outer code bars, , and on the other hand a temperature indicator (3), which comprises a contrast medium (8) contained between a front wall (6) and a base wall (7), which medium in a first temperature state is transparent or light-reflecting, but which on transition to another temperature state is triggered so far that the same is irreversibly converted to an opaque or light-absorbing colour, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the temperature indicator (3) is located beside the bar-code (2) in close vicinity of one of the outer code bars (4) thereof without covering the bar-code, in order to, on one hand, in the first temperature state thereof without hindrance enable scanning of the bar-code, but on the other hand, after triggering, make scanning impossible, more precisely by making an outer, neutral field (5) opaque or light-absorbing.
- 25 2. A package according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the temperature indicator (3) consists of a separate, label-like unit applied to the outside of the package (1).
- 30 3. A package according to claim 1 or 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the two walls (6, 7) of the temperature indicator (3) are included in a continuous and at least partly transparent film web (9), which is double-folded along an edge, (10), which is situated closest to an outer code bar (4) in the bar-code (2).
- 35 4. A package according to claim 2 or 3, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the label unit has an elongate, rectangular basic shape, the double-folded film edge consisting of a first short side edge (10), and that the two walls (6, 7) are inter-

connected along two long-side edges (12, 13) and the second short side edge (11).

5 5. A package according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the temperature indicator (3), along an edge turned against the bar-code (2), includes an optical fibre element (20), which is transparent or light-reflecting as long as the contrast medium is transparent or light-reflecting, but which is made opaque or light-absorbing when the temperature  
10 indicator is triggered.

6. A package according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the temperature indicator (3) is located with one edge (10) thereof within a distance of  
15 0-3 mm, suitably 0,2-2,0 mm, from an outer code bar (4).

7. A package according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the front wall (6) of the temperature indicator comprises a transparent field (14) in  
20 connection with an edge, as well as an opaque field (15) in which there is one or more secondary, transparent symbol fields (16), which have the purpose of visually indicating that the temperature indicator has been triggered by an alteration reaction in the contrast medium (8).

25 8. A package according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the contrast medium of the temperature indicator consists of a porous, capillary sucking means (8), which has a certain optic property in a dry state  
30 and another one in a state wet by a liquid (18).

9. A method for marking a package (1) for storing goods in a preservative state in which the temperature may not pass a certain limit value, comprising the steps of providing the  
35 package with a bar-code (2) of the type that between two outer, light-absorbing code bars (4) includes a plurality of intermediate and likewise light-absorbing code bars (4) mutually spaced-apart by neutral light-reflecting fields (5), outer, neutral fields (5) being left outside the outer code

bars, and of applying a temperature indicator (3), which comprises a contrast medium (8) contained between a front wall (6) and a base wall (7), said medium being transparent or light-reflecting in a first temperature state, but which on transition to a predetermined second temperature state is triggered so far that the same in an irreversible way is converted to an opaque or light-absorbing colour, characterized in that the temperature indicator (3) is placed beside the bar-code (2) in close vicinity of one of the outer code bars (4) thereof without covering the bar-code.

10. A method according to claim 9, characterized in that the temperature indicator (3) is placed with one edge (10) thereof within a distance of 0-3 mm, suitably 0,2-2,0 mm, from an outer code bar (4).